

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 MCT-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /077 W

-----300510Z 029224 /11

R 291627Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2714

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USSOUTHCOM

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, US, NU

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: BOMBING ALLEGATIONS

REF: (A) MANAGUA 482, (B) MANAGUA 1009

SUMMARY: THE REPORT OF BOMBING NICARAGUA VILLAGES OFFERS AN EXAMPLE OF THE EFFORTS OF ANTI-SOMOZA PROPAGANDISTS TO DISCREDIT NOT ONLY THE SOMOZA REGIME BUT THE U.S. AS WELL. END SUMMARY

1. IN LATE JANUARY AN ACCOUNT APPEARED IN EL NACIONAL DE MEXICO OF BOMBING OF A NICARAGUAN VILLAGE REFERRED TO AS VARILLON. THIS ALLEGATION WAS DENIED AND DERIDED BY THE GON (REF A). LATER IN FEBRUARY EMB LEARNED FROM CAPUCHIN PRIESTS OF REPORTED MASSACRE AT A VILLAGE NAMED VARILLAL (REF B). THEY SAID THEY WERE SURE THE

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REPORTS APPLIED TO THE SAME PLACE BUT COULD FIND NO ONE WHO HAD SEEN ANY BOMBING. BY MARCH THE CAPUCHINS HAD DISCOVERED A REPORT IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA OF A BOMBING DIRECTED AT TWO HILLTOPS. LAS NUBERS AND DESCARGE. FURTHER THEY WERE TOLD THE BOMBING WAS DIRECTED AT AN FSLN TRAINING CAMP LOCATED ON THE LAS NUBES HILLTOP. A MEMBER OF THE U.S. MILGP HAD ALSO HEARD OF A BOMBING ATTACK ON AN FSLN CAMP ON LAS NUMBES. AT LEAST TWICE IN MARCH (MEXICO

AND CARACAS) FATHER ERNESTO CARDENAL HAS BEEN QUOTED AS ALLEGING
U.S. BOMBING MISSIONS IN NICARAGUA.

2. THIS SEQUENCE OF EVENTS SUGGESTS: (1) THE FSLN INFORMATION
NETWORK AND FOREIGN MEDIA OUTLETS WORK FASTER THAN OUR RECEIPT
OF INFORMATION FROM THE CAPUCHINS REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE; (2) ALTHOUGH THE GON DENIAL WAS TECHNICALLY TRUE,
IT WAS DISSIMULATING; (3) THE FSLN PROPAGANDA MACHINE TRIED TO
TURN A BOMB ATTACK ON ONE OF THEIR CAMPS INTO AN ATROCITY; AND
(4) THESE PROPAGANDA CHARGES PROVIDE THE MATERIAL WHICH FEEDS
THE ATTACKS OF PEOPLE LIKE CARDENAL AGAINST THE GON AND THE U.S.
THECHARGES BY CARDENAL GENERALLY HAVE SOME KERNEL OF PROBABILITY
WHICH MAKES THEM DIGESTIBLE BY AUDIENCES WHICH WANT TO BELIEVE THE
WORST. NEVERTHELESS, WITH REGARD TO U.S. PROGRAMS, THEY ARE
GENERALLY SO DISTORTED AND OBLIVIOUS OF EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY,
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THEY ARE MALICIOUSLY MOTIVATED.
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